

Annotated Agenda
MAFAC Meeting, Silver Spring, Maryland
October 13-15, 2015

**Species in the Spotlight -
Survive to Thrive**

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Objective/Purpose (Update and Informational)

Provide information about the Species in the Spotlight campaign, its goals, and the connections that MAFAC's Recovery Project has with it. Two of the eight species highlighted are also the focus of the recovery project, the Hawaiian monk seal and white abalone.

Background/Synopsis

As NOAA Fisheries begins the fifth decade of administering the ESA, we rededicate ourselves to ensuring we do not lose any species on our watch. The ESA has been successful in preventing species extinctions—less than 1 percent of the species listed under the ESA have been delisted because of extinction. While we have recovered and delisted a small percentage of listed species since 1973, we would likely have seen hundreds of species go extinct without the ESA.

Of all the species NOAA protects under the ESA, we consider **eight** among the most at risk of extinction in the near future. As a result, we have launched our "Species in the Spotlight: Survive to Thrive" initiative, a concerted agency-wide effort to spotlight and save these highly at-risk species.

This initiative will include targeted efforts vital for stabilizing their populations and preventing their extinction. Our approach involves intensive human efforts to stabilize these species, with the goal that they will become candidates for recovery. We want these species, as well as all of our listed resources, **to survive and thrive**.

The eight "Species in the Spotlight" are:

- Atlantic Salmon Gulf of Maine Distinct Population Segment (DPS)
- Central California Coast Coho Evolutionarily Significant Unit (ESU)
- Cook Inlet Beluga Whale (DPS)
- Hawaiian Monk Seal
- Pacific Leatherback Sea Turtle
- Sacramento River Winter-run Chinook (ESU)
- Southern Resident Killer Whale (DPS)
- White Abalone

This [video](#) has been developed so the public can hear NOAA Fisheries Assistant Administrator, Eileen Sobeck, explain how the initiative focuses on efforts that are vital for stabilizing these populations and preventing their extinction.